the Act by the Arms (Amendment) Act, 1983 (25 of 1983). Powers under these Sections have also been delegated to States|Union Territories.

(iv) So far as acquisition|possession|carrying of knives and daggers is concerned, the State Governments|Union Territories have already been delegated powers to impose restrictions under Section 4 of the Arms Act, 1959 as and when the situation requires.

(v) The State Governments|Union Territories were advised to carry out investigation|prosecution of theft|loss of arms and ammunition from licensees and to follow up the cases vigorously.

Reported violation of Wildlife Act by Assam

*410. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:
SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the'Times of India' of 29th June, 1986 under the caption "Assam violating wildlife Act";

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is attached.

Statement

According to Section 12 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 as amended in 1982 (23 of 1982), for scientific research or management of an area the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State may issue a permit for capture of any wild animal specified in Schedule I of the Act, with the previous permission of the Central Government. The Indian elephant is in Schedule I of the Act and the State Government of Assam had applied to the Central Government for permission to capture elephants. The matter was examined by the Indian Board for Wildlife and it was decided that the State Government be given permission to capture a hundred elephants in the year 1985-86, subject to certain conditions. The most important amongst these were that a detailed plan of capture would be drawn up in advance and sent to the Central Government whose nominee would also be associated with the capture operations; that the existing habitats of the elephants would be effectively protected; the captured elephants would be used by the Government and not sold off and that private parties would not be involved in the capture, as otherwise the elephants that would be captured may well be those which are young and amenable for training purposes and not those which are primarily responsible for damage to life and property.

This was conveyed to the State Government of Assam but no response was received and no permission was therefore given. However, report has been received that the State Government of Assam has permitted private parties to capture elephants by the mela shikar or noose capture method, resulting in the capture of 90 wild elephants and that the majority of these animals are being allowed to be retained by the private parties.

The Prime Minister wrote to the Chief Minister of Assam in April, 1986, pointing out the violation of law and of the resolution of the Indian Board of Wildlife. As yet no reply has been received to this letter.

Prices of Garlic

*411. CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the prices of Garlic have risen very high in Delhi;

(b) if so, what is the present ruling prices of Garlic in Delhi and in other Metropolitan cities of India; and